

Gerontology for the Health Care Professional

Third Edition

Edited by

REGULA H. ROBNETT, PhD, OTR/L

Professor

Department of Occupational Therapy
University of New England

WALTER C. CHOP, MS, RRT

Professor Emeritus

Respiratory Therapy Department
Southern Maine Community College



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Jones & Bartlett Learning
5 Wall Street
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978-443-5000
info@jblearning.com
www.jblearning.com

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing to open this textbook and read this page. *Gerontology for the Health Care Professional, Third Edition* is designed with you in mind. Our goal is to make this textbook as reader-friendly as possible, and to demonstrate that we are thoroughly committed to interprofessional healthcare practice.

As you read each chapter, we encourage you to consider the role of each of the healthcare professions listed below. While this is not an exclusive list and, most of the time, only a small portion of all the possible professions will actually be involved in working with any given client, we do want you to at least think about how this profession *could* be involved, and if a consultation or referral would be in order. You may need to investigate some of the following professions to understand exactly what they are. Further research is certainly encouraged.

The most prominent healthcare professionals involved in gerontological care are:

- Alternative Medicine Practitioners
- Art Therapists
- Athletic Trainers
- Audiologists
- Cardiovascular Technologists
- Case Managers
- Counselors
- Dental Practitioners
- Dietitians/Nutritionists
- Emergency Medical Practitioners
- Gerontologists
- Horticulture Therapists
- Imaging Technologists
- Massage Therapists
- Medical Laboratory Practitioners
- Medical Records Health Information Specialists
- Music Therapists
- Neuropsychologists
- Nursing Practitioners
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists (low vision)
- Orthotists
- Physical Therapy Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Physicians
- Polysomnographers

- Prosthetists
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Radiological Technologists
- Recreation Therapists
- Rehabilitation Teachers (low vision)
- Respiratory Therapists
- Social Workers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Visual Care Specialists

We are fortunate to be living in this day and age, because information is now at our fingertips as it has never been before. Certainly not everything available online can be relied upon, and therefore we need to read what is out there in cyberspace with critical and questioning eyes. However, for those who want to learn, the floodgates have opened and the world of information is there for the learning.

The *Third Edition* begins with chapters on the different aspects of aging, including:

- Demographics (Chapter 1)
- Social (Chapter 2)
- Physiological (Chapter 3)
- Cognitive and psychological (Chapter 4)
- Sensory and functional (Chapter 5)

Later chapters explore various issues that, although not exclusive to older people, are of primary importance to the older population. These issues include:

- Pharmacology (Chapter 6)
- Nutrition (Chapter 7)
- Dental health (Chapter 8)
- Sexuality (Chapter 9)
- Housing and the continuum of care (Chapter 10)
- Policy and ethical issues (Chapter 11)
- Plain language (Chapter 12)
- Speculation on the future of our aging society (Chapter 13)

The *Third Edition* includes updates and new information, including:

- New chapter on dental issues
- New epilogue
- More case studies
- More on policy and legislative issues, patient advocacy, ethics, elder abuse, cultural issues, communication, and social theories of aging
- Latest information on obesity
- Updated information, statistics, and census data
- Expanded information on dementia, sleep disorders, and medication therapy management

Explore, enjoy the learning process, and thank you for your interest in learning about, and possibly working with, older people.

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- All of the contributing authors whose hard work and dedication created the substance of this text: Nancy Brossoie, Charles Gregory, David Sandmire, Jessica Bolduc, Ann O’Sullivan, John Murray, Thomas Nolin, Christine Ruby, Sue Stableford, Marji Harmer-Beem, Kathryn Thompson, Nancy MacRae, Ellen Menard, Laney Anne Bruner-Canhoto, and Paul Ewald.
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CONTRIBUTORS

Jessica J. Bolduc, DrOT, MS, OTR/L
Portland, Maine

Nancy Brossoie, PhD
Center for Gerontology
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia

**Laney Anne Bruner-Canhoto, PhD,
MSW, MPH**
Director
Performance Improvement, Disability and
Community Services
Assistant Professor
Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Paul D. Ewald, PhD
Provost
Notre Dame de Namur University
Belmont, California

Charles J. Gregory, PhD
Professor
Southern Maine Community College
South Portland, Maine

Marji J. Harmer-Beem, RDH, MS
Associate Professor
Dental Hygiene Program
University of New England
Portland, Maine

Nancy MacRae, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate Professor
Occupational Therapy Department
University of New England
Portland, Maine

Ellen Menard, MBA, BSN, RN
Patient Advocacy Expert
Ellen Menard, Inc.
Sarasota, Florida

John K. Murray, MPH, RRT, RPSGT
Department Chair
Cardiopulmonary, Sleep Technology and
Exercise Science
Northern Essex Community College
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Thomas D. Nolin, PharmD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics

xviii Contributors

University of Pittsburgh, School of
Pharmacy
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ann O'Sullivan, OTR/L, LSW, FAOTA

Family Caregiver Support Program
Coordinator

Southern Maine Agency on Aging
Scarborough, Maine

Christine M. Ruby, PharmD, BCPS

Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics
University of Pittsburgh, School of
Pharmacy
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

David A. Sandmire, MD

Professor
Biology Department
University of New England

Sue Stableford, MPH, MSB

Director
Health Literacy Institute
University of New England
Portland, Maine

Kathryn H. Thompson, PhD, RD

Professor
University of New England
Biddeford, Maine

REVIEWERS

Jodi Blair, PhD

Adjunct Professor
Allen Community College
Burlingame, Kansas

Erin Cattoor, MSN, RN

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
Maryville University
St. Louis, Missouri

Bruce Elliott, PT, MS, DPT

Professor
University of Hartford
West Hartford, Connecticut

**Kathleen Evanina, RN, CRNP-BC,
APRN, PhD-c, DNP-c**

Professor
Marywood University
Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Dorcas C. Fitzgerald, PhD, RN, CNS

Faculty (Professor) Emeritus
Youngstown State University
Warren, Ohio

Vivienne Friday, EdD

Assistant Professor
Iowa Western Community College
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Steven D. Karnes, MHA

Assistant Professor
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, Michigan

Ralph Lucki, RRT, MEd

Professor, Program Director and
Division Chair
West Virginia Northern Community
College
Wheeling, West Virginia

